

Testimony in Support of HB 6664

An Act Concerning Managing Waste and Creating a Waste Authority

Dear Honored Co-Chairs Sen. Lopes and Rep. Gresko, Vice Chairs Sen. Hochadel and Rep. Palm, Ranking Members Sen. Harding and Rep. Callahan, Distinguished Members of the Environment Committee:

My name is Jill Harris. I am a mother, a grandmother, and a former teacher. I am concerned about the proliferation of plastic waste and the harm it does to nearly every aspect of our world: our bodies, our land, our water, and our confidence in our ability to solve our problems.

I am testifying to urge your support of Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging as a major step that our state can take to address the solid waste crisis. EPR represents a critical step in stabilizing our waste management system and incentivizing producers and vendors to adopt more sustainable packaging.

- EPR for packaging will promote **increased recycling** by creating stable funding and standardizing waste-management practices in Connecticut. EPR for packaging in other states, Canadian provinces, and countries in Europe has resulted in greatly improved recycling rates, according to a [study by the Recycling Partnership](#).
- EPR for packaging will provide **education and outreach** that will reduce “wishcycling” and contamination, thereby improving the quality of the material collected and its potential for reuse. It can also increase participation in waste-reduction programs.
- EPR for packaging will **make producers responsible and accountable**. It will initiate change in a corporate culture that has hitherto maximized single-use products and encouraged wastefulness. It will incentivize producers to make more sustainable packaging.
- EPR for packaging will **relieve municipalities** of a heavy financial burden and shift waste-management costs to corporations that profit from the sale of packaged products. Revenue from an EPR program can fund the construction and operation of more versatile recycling facilities.
- DEEP estimates EPR for packaging will **divert 190,000 tons of waste** annually and save Connecticut’s municipalities \$50 million dollars in tipping fees.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of these issues.

Sincerely yours,
Jill Harris, Middletown